

Supplement

TO THE

ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER.

MARCH 23rd, 1881.

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE CZAR.

THE terrible death of the Czar of Russia, and the feeling of horror, that has been caused by the diabolical pertinacity with which the Nihilists have pursued their illustrious victim, until they have at length obtained their object, has been the principal topic of conversation during the past week. The *Anti-Slavery Reporter* would be wanting in proper feeling towards the EMANCIPATOR OF TWENTY-THREE MILLIONS OF SERFS, did it not place upon its pages some record of the sad end of one of the greatest and best of the rulers of Russia; and in so doing, it cannot do better than quote the touching and eloquent words of the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on the 15th instant:—

MR. GLADSTONE said: I hope the House will be unanimously of opinion that the assassination of a great Sovereign, placed upon one of the highest thrones upon earth, would under ordinary circumstances supply a fitting occasion for us to carry to the foot of the British Throne the expression of our sympathy and horror; but, Sir, in the present instance there are many heightening circumstances which cannot be excluded from review. There is, first, the noble self-forgetfulness with which it appears that the Emperor, having escaped from the first deadly attack made upon him, was induced to disregard the cautious advice of those around him, that he should again seek the shelter of his carriage, and to say, No—it

was his duty to see to the wounded. (Cheers.) Again, Sir, we cannot but bear in mind that the circumstances of this assassination have reached a pitch of cruelty and horror perhaps hardly known in the annals of such deeds. And, finally, we must express our feelings of the black ingratitude to such a Sovereign which alone, according to all human judgment, could have led to the conception and execution of such a crime. It recalls to my mind some lines in which the patriarch of all poets has recorded his feelings upon the case of a very ancient Sovereign, whose wise and good reign had failed to elicit the universal gratitude which ought to have been its consequence and its reward. As his thought is represented by Pope, Homer says:—

“Let tyrants govern with an iron rod,
Oppress, destroy, and be the scourge of God,
Since he who, like a father, held his reign—
So soon forgot—was just and mild in vain.”

For, Sir, all know that, whatever there may be in that great Empire, as doubtless there may be found in all communities, to call for criticism or for censure on the imperfection of human institutions, none of it was owing to Alexander II. If it existed it was part of the inheritance he received. The sole labour of a devoted life was with him to improve that inheritance for the benefit of his subjects and of mankind. But, Sir, I believe it is not the language of flattery, nor even the language of mere feeling naturally excited by what has occurred, which leads me to state with confidence, that there cannot be a doubt that the reign of Alexander II. in the history of Russia and in the history of Europe and Christian civilization will ever be regarded as an illustrious and memorable reign. He came to the Throne when the country was locked in a deadly struggle with three Powers, two of them among the greatest in the world, and he extricated her from that struggle with all the promptitude and all the honour that the most loyal citizen of his country could have desired. It was not his fate to pass through a long reign without again seeing his country involved, towards the close of it, in another great and dangerous struggle; but that great and dangerous war was ennobled, at least to him,

and to many who shared with him the deep conviction of his heart and mind, that it was a war of duty and a war of liberation. But, passing from considerations of peace and war, which must ever awaken in our mind mixed associations, let us only ask ourselves whether modern times have exhibited any reign more distinguished, more remarkable for the great works of peaceful legislation which he bequeathed to that great empire. Perhaps, Sir, we are none of us aware—I certainly cannot pretend to any accurate or minute knowledge of these works, but even the outlines of the names of a few of them are such as to demonstrate that they were due, not only to a sense of high duty and Christian philanthropy, but also to an enlightened intelligence and a powerful will. It was the happy fate of Alexander II., by one of the greatest acts ever peacefully accomplished in the annals of civilized change, to give civil and social freedom to a population of serfs estimated at more than 20 millions of human beings. (Cheers.) It was his happy lot to establish in Russia a system of local government which, as a local government, I believe to be thoroughly free, independent, and popular. It was also among the triumphs of his reign to introduce into Russia an institution which we fondly think to be associated with our own history—the institution known as trial by jury. Nor were these the only acts for which he may claim the favourable judgment of the enlightened historian. My duty is not to enter into a catalogue of these acts; it is only to point to a few of the more memorable among them; and it is indeed, sad to think that such a man should be reserved for such a fate. Doubtless there are counsels of Providence behind which it is not for us to scrutinise, and which we must believe will tend to all that is wise and good. In the illustration I just now cited it was deplored that the mild Sovereign was so soon forgot. That will not be the case with Alexander II. The fond affection of his people will ever cling around his memory, as well as the sympathy and admiration of others. In these circumstances it is easy for us to understand with what feelings the Queen, allied as she is with the late Emperor of Russia by domestic ties, and thoroughly cognizant of all that has taken place in a reign contemporary with her own, must view this terrible catastrophe. Therefore, I have no more to do than to invite the House, loyally, earnestly, affectionately, and unanimously, to go to the foot of the Throne, and assure Her Majesty of the grief and the horror with which we contemplate this act, and of the sincere and respectful sympathy with which we enter into all the feelings which she must entertain with regard to this act. (Loud cheers.) I move:—“That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, conveying to Her Majesty the expression of the indignation and deep concern with which this House has learnt of the assassination of Her Majesty’s relative and ally, His Imperial Majesty

the Emperor of all the Russias, and to pray Her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to express to His Majesty the present Emperor, on the part of her faithful Commons, their abhorrence of the crime and their sympathy with the Imperial Family of Russia and with the Government and the people of that country.”

SIR S. NORTHCOTE.—It must be quite unnecessary for me to add anything to the eloquent language which has just proceeded from the Prime Minister. I only rise that there may be no doubt whatever in the minds of all who may now take note of the proceedings of this House on this occasion of the universal feeling of sympathy and the universal feeling of admiration for him whose life has just been cut short which animates the people of this country and the members of this House. I believe that throughout the European family there is no member which has felt the thrill of that horror more sincerely or more deeply than has England. We have known of, we have watched, we have sympathised with the works which have been now so eloquently and so truly set forth. If there have ever been moments in which political differences may have caused the shade of jealousy with regard to the external policy of that great empire, I venture to say that never for a moment have the hearts of this people ceased to beat with feelings of sympathy for the personal character and the great domestic labours of the Emperor Alexander II. We have seen and we have known how truly and in what spirit of self-sacrifice he has laboured in a field strange to us in some respects, and we have perhaps appreciated his labours all the more on account of the great differences which existed between that empire and our own. We have, indeed, shuddered to think of the long agony he must have endured under the crime which has been, one may say, in the course of commission now for more than two years, and which has been consummated at last in a manner most terrible and most repulsive; and we can but share the feeling expressed by the Prime Minister that, sad as has been in one sense the termination of that career, the sadness and the horror will after a time pass away in the recollection of the great work which has been done and the great name which has been left behind. In what I know is the spirit of the whole House, I cordially second the proposition. Cheers.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

A vote of condolence and sympathy with H.I.H. the Duchess of Edinburgh was also proposed by the Prime Minister and seconded by the leader of the Opposition, and we are sure that all the civilised world must heartily echo the sentiments contained in the speeches of

the leaders of the English House of Commons.

Similar addresses were also unanimously voted in the House of Lords, being proposed by Earl Granville and seconded by the Earl of Beaconsfield.

THE MURDER OF M. LUCEREAU IN NORTH-EASTERN AFRICA.

We translate from the *Egyptian Gazette* of the 19th February, 1881, a few extracts from a long and interesting letter, forwarded by Dr. Dutrieux, of Alexandria, to that paper; we only regret that space forbids our printing the letter in full.

In November, 1879, Dr Dutrieux, on his return from his scientific expedition to Central Africa, in an almost dying condition, passed some time at Aden with M. Lucereau, of whom he formed the very highest opinion. He now writes as follows:—

"M. Lucereau, a French traveller, sent out by the Geographical Society of Paris to explore the sources of the Sobat, has, together with six other persons, been massacred by the Gallas, at Ouarabelly, a district under the Egyptian Government. . . .

"M. Lucereau experienced considerable difficulties at Zeila, and his journey was impeded by the hostile attitude of Abou Bekr, Egyptian Governor of that town. Without the goodwill of that governor, it is impossible for a stranger to penetrate into Africa, as he has the monopoly of all the means of transport. M. Lucereau was therefore obliged to return to Aden, where he remained till July last. Subsequently it turned out that Abou Bekr had received orders to facilitate the journey of M. Lucereau, who soon after arrived at Harar, from whence he departed on the 17th of October.

"It was at a distance of only six hours on horseback from Harar, that M. Lucereau and his followers were massacred by the Gallas, and that upon Egyptian territory!

"Singular coincidence! at this very moment the Governor of Harar had gone upon an expedition against the Nollis Gallas, precisely in the opposite direction to that which M. Lucereau had taken! In my humble opinion, the Governor could scarcely be ignorant of the fact, that in a district under his authority, only six hours ride from his residence, sufficient security could not be taken to prevent the massacre of M. Lucereau and his followers. In any case,

he ought to have been able to put him upon his guard, and to give a sufficient escort for the protection of the French traveller. . . .

"It is also to be observed that M. Lucereau was not only a scientific explorer, but he was an ardent abolitionist. In contact with this plague (the slave-trade), which desolates Central Africa, and in sight of the horrors caused by the slave-trade, his pen did not fail to point out those who were implicated in this odious traffic, and to report them as liable to the penalties enacted by law throughout the extent of the Egyptian territory. To all slave merchants and their accomplices, direct or indirect, the European explorer is an enemy. We may ask, was not M. Lucereau considered such by the Egyptian authorities at Zeila and at Harar? Have they exposed him wilfully to the hostile attacks of the Gallas?

"How far has the hostility of Abou Bekr been carried? These are questions which demand precise answers. The name of Abou Bekr in this business affords us no guarantee. For a long time Abou Bekr has shown peculiar talents in the matter of the slave-trade, ignoring the noble intentions of the Khedive, and counteracting all the efforts of the Government for the repression of the slave-trade. By his attitude, he has encouraged the subordinate agents to restrain the authority of the law, and to annoy and thwart European travellers, whose criticisms and exposures they dread."

Whilst thoroughly believing with Dr. Dutrieux, that the murder of M. Lucereau was due to the hostility of slave-traders, we have not quite the same faith which he appears to have in the *bond fides* of the Egyptian Government. We quite agree with him, that a very searching inquiry ought to be instituted, and we cannot but think that the French Government ought to co-operate heartily with our own, in insisting that some European control should be exercised over those provinces of Egypt, now desolated by the slave-trade.

THE BOERS AND SLAVERY.

"A correspondent asks whether any member or members of the Anti-Slavery Society, or the Aborigines' Protection Society, have taken Sir Wilfred Lawson at his word by accepting a £10 note for every slave manumitted by British authority in the Transvaal since it came

under our control. And, if not, what becomes of the representations so persistently made that the Boers sanctioned slavery."—*Echo*.

The *Echo* has more than once inserted the above offer made by Sir Wilfred Lawson; but, inasmuch as we never said that the British Government had manumitted any slaves in the Transvaal, we did not think the above notice worth answering. At the same time we may state that a gentleman, recently arrived from Natal, who knows the Transvaal very well, informed us that after the annexation in 1877, many of the Boers themselves manumitted their slaves for fear of the action that might be taken by the British Government!

HERR GOTTFRIED ROTH.

The enterprising young Swiss, who was the first to advise the authorities of the arrival of the slave caravan at Assiout, has sent us a few lines from an oasis in the Libyan Desert, where he has gone on an expedition to try and induce the local chiefs to throw hindrances in the way of the slave-dealers. We trust to hear further from him shortly. His zeal in the cause of humanity is most commendable.

SAHARA, LIBYAN DESERT, OASIS SINA (SIWAH).

4th January, 1881.

Mr. Charles H. Allen.

Dear Sir,—After having travelled for about twenty-four days I reached Sina on the 2nd January, 1881.

I was partly walking and riding on camel. My shoes are torn, and my face is black. Water has been very scarce on the way, although I am in good spirits.

My object in coming here is to induce the Mamour (the chief authority) of the place, not to let pass caravans with slaves on Egyptian territory.

Yours respectfully in great haste,
GOTTFRIED ROTH.

SENHOR NABUCO.

A company, consisting of nearly sixty ladies and gentlemen, assembled at the Charing Cross Hotel this morning (23rd

March), by invitation of Mr. Samuel Gurney, President of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, in order to welcome Senhor Nabuco to this country. A handsome breakfast was provided, and the chair was taken by Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart. Senhor Nabuco delivered an eloquent address in English, of which language he is an almost perfect master, and his remarks upon slavery in Brazil were listened to with much interest by the company present, amongst whom were several Members of the British Parliament. A few short speeches were made in reply, and Mr. Crawford, late H.B.M. Consul in Cuba, gave interesting information confirmatory of some of the statements made by Senhor Nabuco. A full report of this interesting meeting will appear in our next issue.

MEMORIAL TO MR. GLADSTONE.

THE SLAVE-TRADE AND SLAVERY IN EGYPT AND THE SOUDAN.

An address on this subject has been forwarded to the Prime Minister by the Anti-Slavery Society, but too late to be reviewed in this number of the *Reporter*. We desire, however, to call the attention of our readers to a valuable and exhaustive editorial in the *Times* of 21st March, in which the statements set forth in the Memorial are well reviewed.

THE WAR IN THE TRANSVAAL.

With the greatest pleasure we learn, as we go to press, that peace has been made with the Boers, on just and honourable terms, and that the rights of the natives will be protected.

We heartily congratulate the Government on this satisfactory result. The courage they have shewn in holding back "the dogs of war," instead of loosing them at the cry of a warlike faction, is more glorious to them than the éclat of a dozen victories in the field.